



GIANT JACKPOT

The "Con" Democracy Will Raise One to Carry Its Public Utilities Scheme Through the State Legislature.

It Is Determined to Take Home Rule Away from Chicago and from Its Mayor and Aldermen.

The Biggest Plot Ever Concocted in America to Make Graft Jump Into the Pockets of Rank Political Confidence Men.

A State Commission that Will Be Amenable Only to the Bosses to Be Established to Fix Rates and Own Utilities.

Leaders of the Conocracy are not letting any grass grow under their feet. They are determined to make hay while the sun shines and will put their great utilities commission scheme through the Legislature next winter no matter what the cost. A giant jackpot is to be raised. Home rule must be taken away from Chicago and a State Commission, devised by the gang, appointed to fix all rates for all public service corporations.

The Utilities Democracy, generally known to the community as the "Con" Democracy, is not bothering much about politics just now. It has received all of the advertising it wants and has achieved a great reputation for political influence, and that's all it has been looking for.

It will now let Wilson, Lewis, Dunne and Hoyne and the rest of the boys in the campaign take care of themselves.

The Utilities Democracy is interested in the Legislature.

But not for the election of a Democratic United States Senator.

It has evolved and is working upon a scheme for a Public Service Commission in Illinois, which will take out of the hands of the Mayor and City Council of Chicago all power over subways, gas companies, telephone companies, railroad companies, traction companies, electric companies and all other public utilities. This Commission will have the power to fix rates and to do virtually as it pleases. The Utilities Democracy is hard at work on it. The scheme will have to be fought bitterly or Chicago will be left without home rule.

The Conocracy represents a gang constantly seeking special privileges from the government.

It is in no way allied to the people or their desires.

In Illinois the Conocracy is trading off every strong man on the ticket for legislative support for its utilities scheme.

This scheme contemplates the establishment by the next Legislature of a state commission which will take from the mayor and City Council of Chicago the right to fix gas rates, subway rates, electric light rates, telephone rates, electric power rates, railroad rates, freight rates, street car rates, passenger rates.

In fact, the aim of the conspirators is to deprive the city of Chicago and the people of home rule.

The proposed commission will have almost despotic power and will be so organized as to give the Conocratic bosses everything they want.

To the end that this utilities scheme may be carried through the Con men are willing to sacrifice the Democratic candidate for president, the Democratic candidate for Governor, the Democratic candidate for United States Senator and the Democratic candidate for States Attorney in Cook county.

The gang is already at work along this line. You will not have much trouble in finding this out. The word has been passed. The influences are at work.

The State of Illinois will be 94 years old next Monday. The fact that it is still in existence is explained by the

statement that the Conocracy has never had a chance to steal it.

The Conocracy has passed the word to "cut" Bartsen as well as Dunne, Hoyne and some others.

The honorable McAnsh is secretary of the Chicago Lighterage Company. Jim Pugh is president Chicago Lighterage Company. Close up the bridges and give the Lighterage Company a chance. Give Pugh the new harbor and help it along. In the meantime don't forget that 108x116x42 feet of North Union street that the honorable McAnsh gets from the city for \$101 a year—less than \$2 per week.

Judge Owens has the Conocracy down fine. Judge Owens is a good citizen as well as a good Democrat and he knows just what political value to attach to the Conocracy.

The Conocracy knifed John J. Curn and Daniel L. Cruce at the judicial election in 1911.

The more one looks into the law, sneaked through the last Legislature, compelling all property owners to install gas shutoffs outside their buildings at a cost of \$200 per lot, the more one ceases to wonder at crime. The property owner has no interest in gas pipes on the outside of his gas meter. That should be the lookout of the gas company. The gas company should be compelled to install all gas shutoffs—if such things are really necessary—at its own expense.

The Graftocracy and the Conocracy have not formed an alliance. It is not necessary. They are one and the same thing.

Of course there was a chewing match for the Bill Wrigley prize on the Lake front. Bill makes gum. The chewing match arose over the claim of Jim Pugh that he had won the prize. Jim is a great boy to claim things when there is any water around.

Of course Bellfuss changed his position on the milk ordinance. When the Newspaper Trust whistles, Bellfuss jumps.

Barrett O'Hara won the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor by a handsome vote at the primaries. The people voted as follows: O'Hara, 58,518; Craig, 45,934; Tate, 36,371; Golden, 24,944; Pickering, 24,427; Ewing, 18,792. He was nominated fairly and should stick as he intends to.

Twelve hundred and eighty-six people were bitten by dogs in Chicago so far this year, up to August 15.

Easy money; 108x116x42 feet of North Union street of \$101 a year. Inquire at the Bureau of Compensation.

Is the State Highway Commission working for the Barber Asphalt Company? We understand that before a certain gentleman became connected

with the commission that the Barber Asphalt Company had fourteen men working through Illinois pointing out where asphalt roads were needed. They have cut this number down to four, we understand. The commission possibly does the work for them.

The Conocracy has no desire to

telephones and other utilities in a state commission.

According to our way of figuring a piece of land at Union and Erie streets 108x116x42 feet would contain 2,265 square feet. At an annual rental of \$101.16 per year this would amount to less than 5 cents per square foot. Pretty cheap rent for good city property.

While the Conocracy will handle the giant jackpot itself, it is understood that it is to be thoroughly non-partisan in its application.

The "Red Light" district is compelled to take its electric light service from the Conocracy Electric Company, pay exorbitant prices and settle its bills once a week. This is one form of electric graft.

Judge Dunne will have his two defeated opponents of the April primaries as his advisers in his campaign for Governor.

Samuel Alschuler and Ben F. Caldwell, who opposed Mr. Dunne for the nomination, have agreed to lend their active aid to the man who defeated them. Mr. Alschuler made a speech for Mr. Dunne out in the state this week and Mr. Caldwell is rounding up the voters in his neck of the woods in Mr. Dunne's behalf.

Fred J. Kern of Belleville will also be on Dunne's special campaign committee. Mr. Kern was chairman of the Peoria state convention and paid a fine tribute to Mr. Dunne when the candidate appeared before the convention. A. S. Frasier, sheriff of Alexander County, has been active for several weeks in the organization of Dunne clubs in all sections of his district and has been tendered and has accepted a place on the advisory committee. The treasurer, Fred H. Rawson of Chicago, was named several weeks ago.

The Conocracy Electric Company, which furnishes electric light to the denizens of the Red Light district, is said to charge and to receive very exorbitant prices for its service. It collects once a week, so as to have a sure thing, according to the fund-

AWFUL SERVICE

The Telephone Trust Keeps Up Its Time-honored Record for "Wrong Numbers" and "Phoney" Busy Signals.

"Sassy" Operators and Eavesdropping Contribute to the Discomfort of Patrons of the Big Dividend-Making Trust.

The Automatic Phone, Which the Trust Is Trying to Put Out of Business, Does Away with "Wrong Numbers" and Listeners.

The Trust Wants a Monopoly, However, and Is Working With Might and Main to Force the People to Maintain It.

The old fashioned Trust phone service in Chicago is getting worse every day. Patrons are constantly complaining of it. Wrong numbers are constantly in evidence; the busy signal is given frequently for a "wrong number", while the phone that is called is not busy at all. Some of the operators are impertinent. Others of

Automatic system does away with all of the petty annoyances. It gives direct connection. It is satisfactory in every way, besides being absolutely private, with no eavesdropping.

The Automatic telephone operated by the Chicago Tunnel Company is far more popular than the Trust phone.

The figures prove it. The figures of the Bell Company are misleading as to the number of telephones. While their count of phones is no doubt correct, it is misleading because most people think that this refers to subscribers. As a matter of fact, the number of telephones is less than 100,000 district subscribers, and that includes their lines in suburban territory.

They have been thirty-six years getting 100,000 subscribers, while the Chicago Tunnel Company have gotten 25,000 subscribers in less than two years.

This shows that the public is with the new Automatic Company.

No matter how people may have differed with Mayor Carter H. Harrison on side issues everybody regards him as an honest man. He has proven this fact over and over again. But the telephone situation in Chicago has given another instance of the mayor's possession of this cardinal virtue. Everybody is familiar with the facts. For a long time the Telephone Monopoly has been lording it over the people of Chicago. It has been charging what it pleased for telephone service and has paid enormous dividends out of money wrung from the pockets of the people of this city. It has been fighting the Illinois Tunnel Company because it has installed an effective and useful competitive service. Backed by the trust press, the monopoly tried its best to forfeit the Tunnel Company's franchise that it might continue on its career of unopposed aggrandizement.

As The Eagle has repeatedly pointed out, the ruthless Telephone Trust has all along, through its hirelings, been abusing the honest mayor and honest aldermen because they did not surrender the whole telephone field to it. Mayor Harrison and his administration have met the situation manfully and the people will not forget them. The council committee on gas, oil and electric light, of which Alderman Cermak is chairman, was asked by the Telephone Monopoly to forfeit the franchise of the Automatic company. The committee asked the corporation counsel what its powers would be in the premises in case the bluff of the monopoly hirelings was made good in anyway. The "wrong number" monopoly had the gall to demand the forfeiture of the Automatic company's franchise on the alleged ground that it did not have a sufficient number of subscribers on a given date. For this reason it asked the aldermen to give the Telephone Trust the right to continue its exorbitant charges without any chance of competition or business opposition. The corporation counsel was not long in furnishing an opinion which has been hailed by the people of Chicago with delight.

It was held in the opinion that the company had acted in good faith; that it had the necessary number of subscribers; that it was delayed in secur-

ing them because of inaction on the part of the city, and that the courts were slow to forfeit equities under such conditions. The opinion was written by Assistant Corporation Counsel Craig and approved by Corporation Counsel Sexton.

"We are of the opinion," reads the closing paragraph of the opinion, "that under the facts shown in the report of the Everett Audit company and the public utility inspector in charge, the courts would not decree or sustain a forfeiture of the company's right acquired under the ordinance of Feb. 20, 1899, or a forfeiture of its plant and equipment for telephone purposes."

Mayor Harrison expressed himself as believing that better service could be obtained from a dual telephone service than from a single one.

"In every instance that I have been personally informed of," he said, "the two systems have been about as cheap to the consumer as one. Competition seems to produce better service. I really believe that better service can be expected from two companies than from one."

The Telephone Trust has commenced a bitter and an uncalled for attack on the Mayor and honest aldermen of the City of Chicago who are fighting for the people's rights against a heartless monopoly.

The Telephone Trust is opposed to the honest, capable and efficient service that Mr. J. Ogden Armour and his colleagues are prepared to give to the city with their automatic service.

The Telephone Trust has changed managers in Chicago and has decided to throw dirt upon honest men in the city government who oppose its domineering and extortionate methods.

The Illinois Tunnel Company has fully complied with the terms of its ordinance and yet the Gratters' Union is not satisfied.

It wants the Illinois Tunnel Company, which has expended over \$5,000,000 in instruments, wires and station equipments, to be forced to give up all of this to satisfy the Telephone Trust.

An alderman who votes in favor of an increase of rates for the Telephone Monopoly will be beaten to a finish the next time he runs for office.

According to some accounts several men who are working for the monopoly and its franchise may not be residents of Chicago when the next election comes around.

The Telephone Monopoly is busy circulating "ugly rumors" about the Corporation Counsel, the Mayor and the honest aldermen who are standing up for the people's rights.

"Ugly rumors" is good. Aldermen who are anxious to learn the truth ought to inquire into the details of the passage of the telephone ordinance five years ago.

"Ugly rumors"!

Well, there are some pretty ugly rumors going the rounds just now.

But the Mayor, Corporation Counsel and honest aldermen are not the ones affected by them.

A watchful eye is being kept on the situation by too many people to have it easily misunderstood.

A new report has been ordered on the books and accounts of the Telephone Trust.

When the aldermen get that report



WASHINGTON PORTER.
Prominent Capitalist and Citizen.

elect and no intention of electing a United States Senator in Illinois this fall. All of its energies are being directed towards the election of a legislature which will take home rule away from Chicago and vest the control of gas, electric lights, railroads,

mental principles of the Con Democracy.

The Utilities Democracy, dealers in franchises and Federal jobs. Cut Dunne and Hoyne and see it work.

they are incompetent. All of this works for a loss of business, time and patience. The whole system is antiquated, and out of date. It is only retained because the old company is more interested in piling up dividends than it is in serving the people. The